

Government Orders

• (1600)

That little province, in terms of population, will have lost \$845 million by the year 1996. That is over the 10-year period from fiscal 1986-87 when this government began putting the blocks to health care and post-secondary education by rolling back payments to the provinces in respect of those accounts under the so-called EPF, the Established Programs Financing.

The member for Lachine—Lac-Saint-Louise says this is not true. I think what he is doing is contradicting the Department of Finance figures that tell me that in the 10 years fiscal 1986-87 to fiscal 1995-96 the savings in respect of the 1986 budget, the amount that will not be paid that would have been paid without the cut-back in the 1986 budget, will amount to \$845 million.

He is playing with some figures. He realizes that because of the announcement the minister made in January, Newfoundland is going to receive a few shekels, that it will be down \$845 million now because it would get \$31 million of that as a result of this particular bill. He has in mind that we are not talking \$845 million but we are talking something closer to the \$800 million.

I want to say to my good friend, the member for Lachine—Lac-Saint-Louise, that if he were the administrator of the Grace Hospital, the great institution in St. John's, Newfoundland, or the Burgeo Hospital, or the Burin Peninsula Hospital at Salt Pond or the hospital in Port-aux-Basques, or the hospital in Stephenville, or if he were a member of the board sitting around the table trying to find the bucks, he would find there were fewer bucks as a result of the 1986 budget. I am talking about 1986, because this pillaging of health facilities has been going on by this government for five to six years.

Now, as we come just a little closer to accountability time when the bets are called in, when this government is going to be called to account, it is giving itself some legislation that can mean different things depending on what you want it to mean. For example, it could mean that the government might decide to get a bit generous during an election year. That would be a great surprise. The government might get generous, notwithstanding all the cut-backs of \$800 million or so in respect of Newfoundland, and that is only one province. I could give

other figures of nearly \$200 million in respect to Prince Edward Island; \$1.3 billion over the 10-year period in respect of Nova Scotia, and so on.

Mr. Layton: Out of whose pocket? Against which debt?

Mr. Simmons: The member has been there too long. He has got all the lines memorized. I am not sure he understands what they mean but he memorizes them well and he speaks them well.

Whose pocket? We know whose pocket: the pocket of the Canadian taxpayer, the same pocket out of which he and his buddies got the money to fly two cars down to Costa Rica, because there were no cars down there good enough to carry his buddy the Prime Minister. That is whose pocket we are talking about.

If he does not understand that particular example, if he does not recognize the incident I am talking about, I will remind him. His Prime Minister, the one and only boy from Baie Comeau, had to go to Costa Rica. There are no cars down there, you understand, good enough for him, so they flew two cars down. He knows this, does he?

Do not spoil my punch line. They flew two cars down.

Mr. Layton: It had nothing to do with the RCMP and its security.

Mr. Simmons: No, it had nothing to do with anything. It had to do with taxpayers. A minute ago, the member wanted me to talk about taxpayers. His question was whose pocket? I am answering: the Canadian taxpayers' pocket, the same taxpayers' pocket that paid for two cars to be flown down. I know the official line. He has got the official line: "Security. Security. Security".

They flew the two cars down. These guys are looking after security. They are not just the ordinary taxpayers out there spending money right, left and centre. They know what they are up to. They get the cars down there as fast as they can. They are bullet proof cars—proper vehicles. They were so bright, those Keystone Kops, those spenders of taxpayers' money that could have been used under Established Programs Financing.

These Keystone Kops forgot to check one little tiny detail, just one detail—do not be too hard on them. They could not find any unleaded gas down there. They could not find any unleaded gas so the cars never got used.